

Cook County Department of Public Health
Quarterly Report
to the Cook County Board of Commissioners in their
capacity as the Cook County Board of Health

Q2 2025: CCDPH Nursing Unit Initiatives
Item 25-2513

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Public Health Nursing



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Nursing Programs

- **APORS/High-Risk Infant Program:** Public Health Nurses provide home visits to assess the home environment, conduct a nutritional evaluation/education, conduct developmental screenings, monitor vaccine compliance, and provide case management services for high-risk infants, and young children.
- **Lead Program:** Public Health Nurses case manage children and pregnant women with elevated blood lead levels of 3.5ug/dL or greater referred by the IDPH to ensure elimination of lead sources from the environment. Case management includes age and developmentally appropriate family education about the sources of lead, screening and intervention for developmental delays, appropriate nutrition, and return elevated blood lead level results to levels below 3.5ug/dL.
- **TB Prevention and Control Program:** Screen for high-risk TB clients, provide treatment for latent TB infections and active TB disease including the provision of direct observed therapy, and case management services for clients diagnosed with active TB.



Nursing Programs (Cont'd)

- **Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program:** A statewide grant program for women 40 years of age and older who are uninsured or underinsured that allows them to receive clinical breast exams, mammography, and pap smears.
- **Genetics Newborn Follow-up Program:** Public Health Nurses ensure that an infant/family who has been identified with potential genetic conditions are referred for specialized genetic testing services including treatment, support, and counseling, thereby promoting health, and minimizing morbidity.
- **Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program:** The goal is the prevention of Hepatitis B transmission from infected mothers to infants through the identification of Hepatitis B surface antigen (HBsAg)-positive pregnant women and their infants and then provide case management and follow-up of the infants, household and sexual contacts.
- **Vision and Hearing Screening Program:** Provides vision and hearing screening in response to referrals from preschools and grammar schools for children over the age of three. This is done by a Technician.

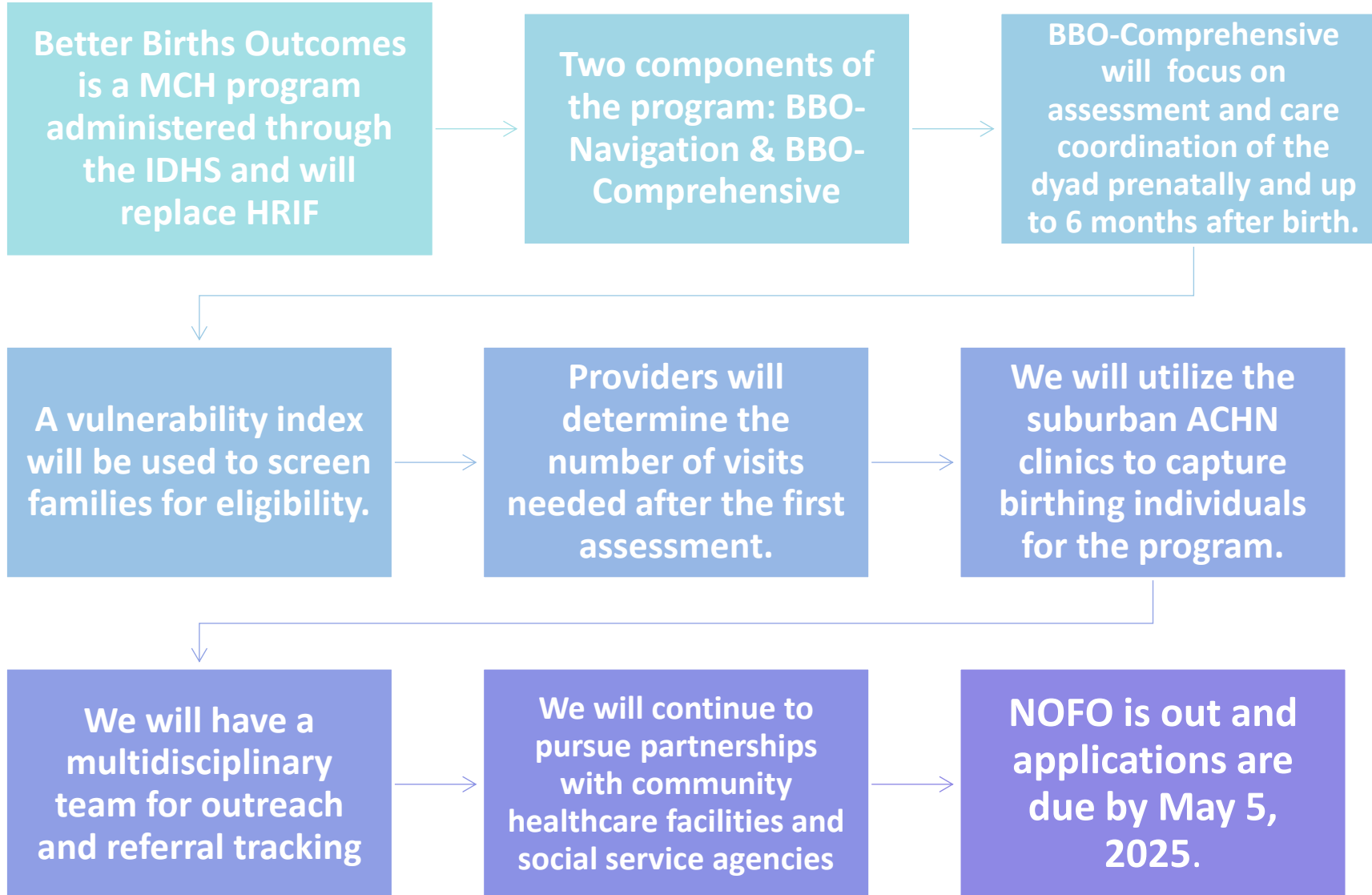


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BBO Transition



Collaboration is Key

Our BCCP program contracts with community health care facility vendors in addition to CCH for the provision of lab, Mammography and screening exams

We receive referrals from the Communicable Disease unit for women who are positive for Perinatal Hepatitis B. Nursing then provides Case Management.

Our TB team and Nurse Epidemiologist work with CD also

We work side by side with our Emergency Preparedness Unit in the provision of Pop-Up clinics for seasonal vaccine administration and community responses for disease outbreak incidents

We team up with our Environmental Unit to provide home visits within our Lead program. The nurse and the Lead Risk Assessor work in tandem to provide health education, case management, lead hazard remediation and referrals into the Health Homes program

We participate with SCC preschools for hearing and vision screening exams. We developed an electronic request form for school administrators to request services electronically

Our Communications unit plays an integral part in website development, formatting content, dissemination of information on multiple social media platforms, along with assisting in the creation of brochures and palm cards



Data That Informs



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Hearing & Vision Screening



Total # of children screened for hearing (by age)				
3 y/o	4 y/o	5 y/o	Kindergarten	Total screened for hearing
923	1026	350	14	2313



Total # of children screened for vision (by age)				
3 y/o	4 y/o	5 y/o	Kindergarten	Total screened for vision
856	986	332	11	2185

*September 2024 – March 2025



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Epidemiology: CCDPH Atlas Informing MCH Focus

(Each of the indicators gives the time-period covered; where the data is available~ municipality, zip code; the data source (most from IDPH), race of the individuals)

Maternal care ED
Visits

Maternal mortality
rate/Infant
mortality rate

Infants born with
birth defects

Pre-pregnancy
obesity rate

VBAC rate

ETOH use during
pregnancy

Gestational
Hypertension

Teenage births

Cesarian birth rate

Smoking during
Pregnancy

Gestational
Diabetes

Infants breastfed at
discharge

Early and adequate
PN care by race

Very Pre-Term
Birth Rate



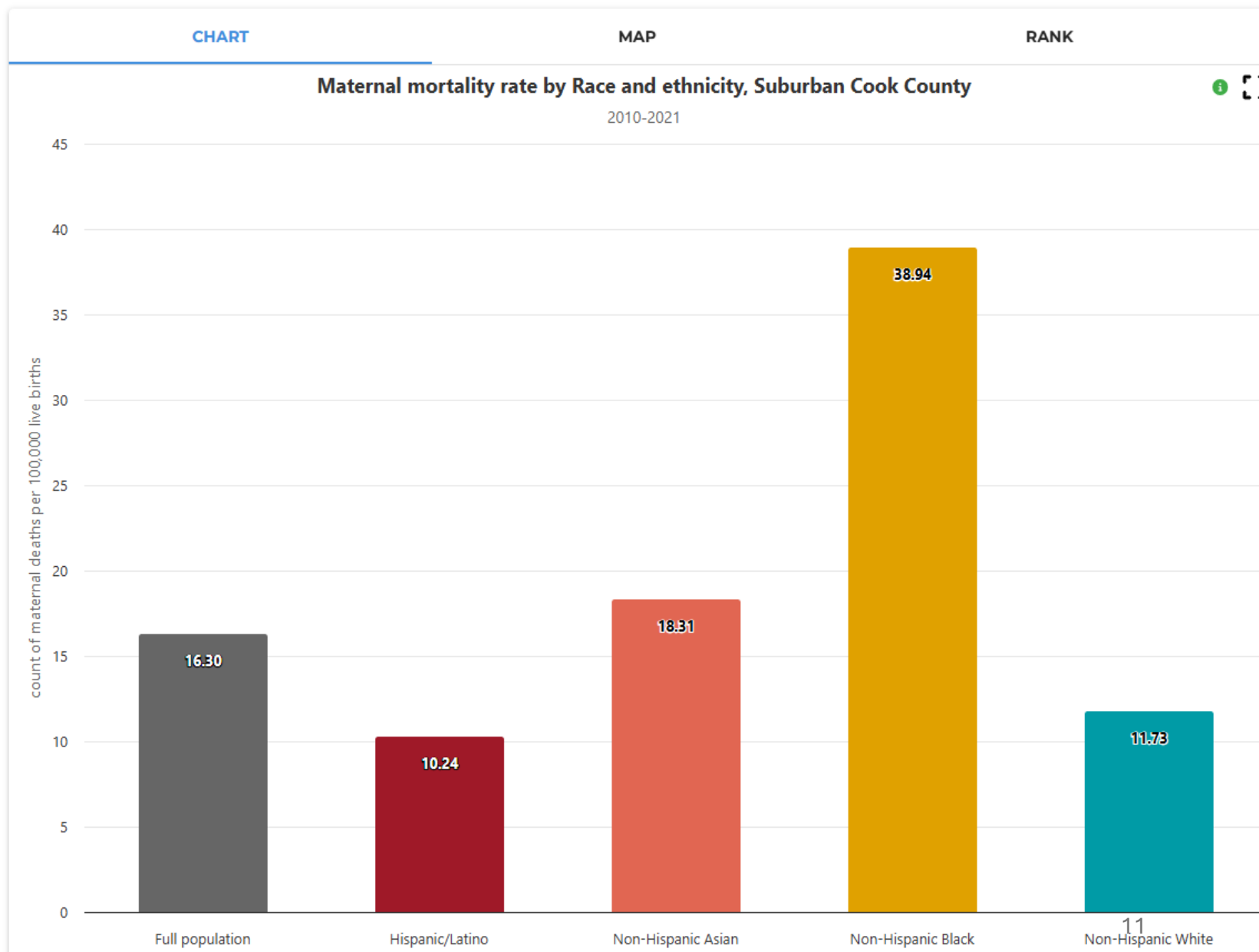
Maternal Mortality rate

Number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births; by race/ethnicity

<https://cookcountyhealthatlas.org/indicators/JG8GUIL?topic=maternal-mortality-rate>

Maternal mortality rate

count of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births
Number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births



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No Prenatal Care Rate

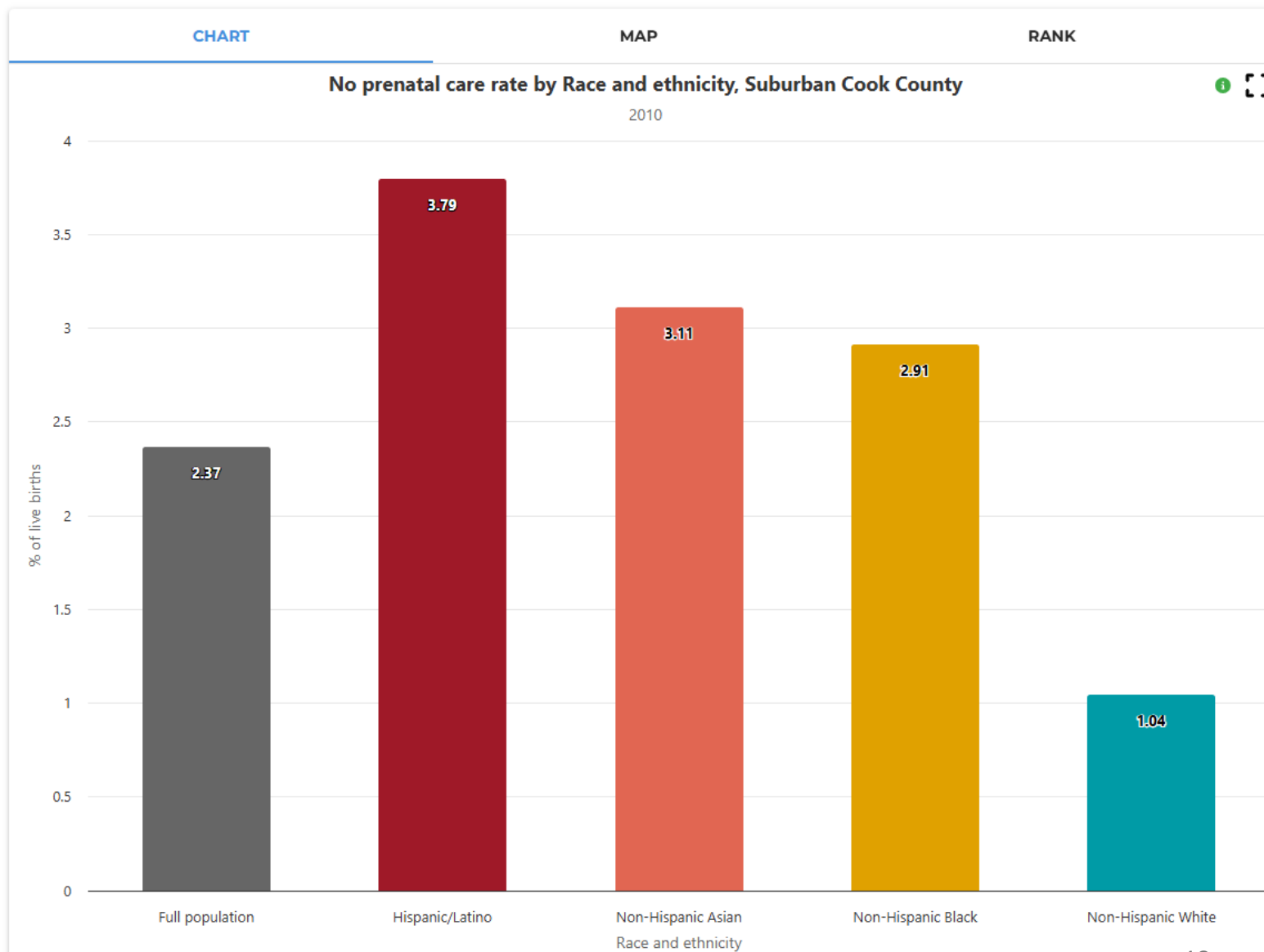
Percent of pregnant persons who did not receive prenatal care among live births by race/ethnicity

<https://cookcountyhealthatlas.org/indicators/JG8EWAC?topic=no-prenatal-care-rate>

No prenatal care rate

% of live births

Percent of pregnant females who did not receive prenatal care among live births



MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ILLINOIS



Pregnancy-related deaths increased by 40% in Illinois from 2015-2017 to 2018-2020



About 88 women die each year while pregnant or within one year of pregnancy

90% are preventable

BLACK WOMEN HAVE THE HIGHEST RISK OF PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATH



2-3X

Black women are 2-3X as likely to die from a pregnancy-related condition than white women.



High-poverty counties had higher rates of pregnancy-related deaths than low-poverty counties.



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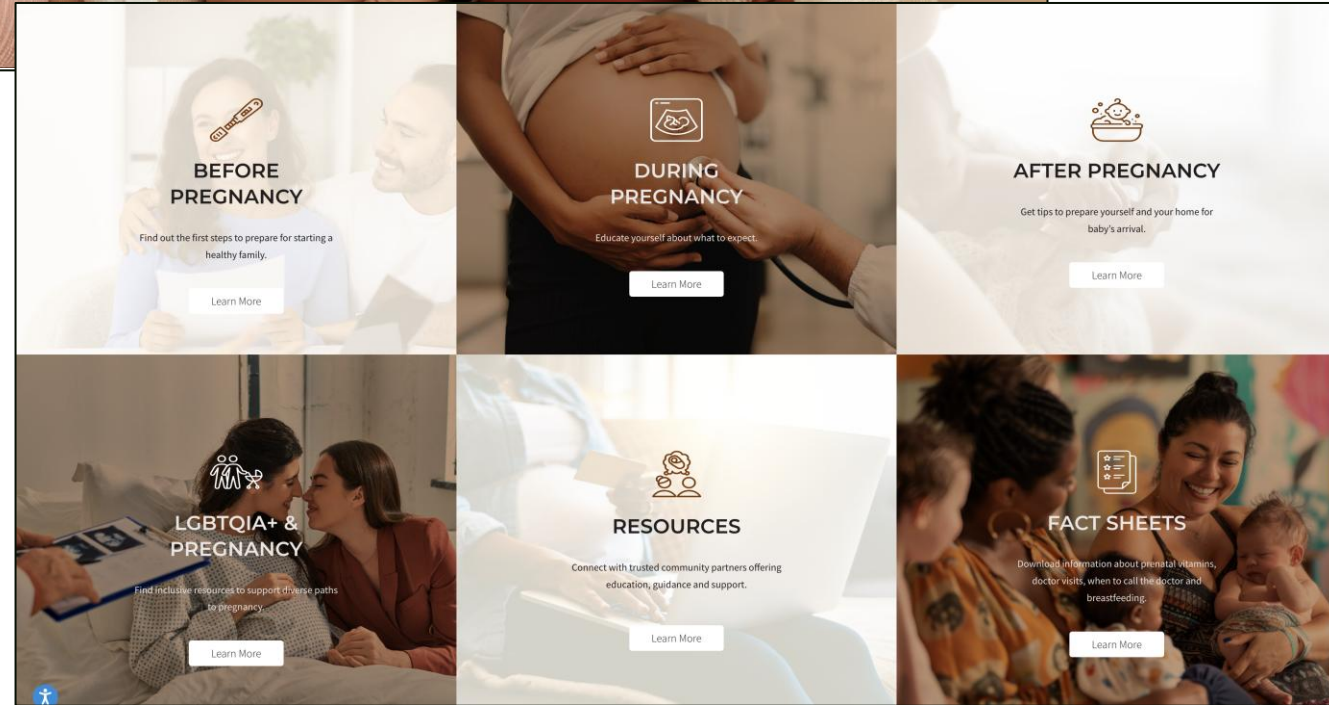
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Every Mother Every Child Website

Our nurses developed EveryMotherEveryChild.org for every stage of pregnancy, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.



(Since the December 2024 launch, there have been 4524 views and 720 active users)



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Multilingual Educational Tools

- Fact sheets

- Prenatal vitamins/nutrition
- Doctor visit checklist
- Breastfeeding
- English, Spanish, Polish, Arabic, and Simplified Chinese

- Resources

- Connect with partners offering education, guidance and support
- Includes links to websites and videos

The image displays four overlapping fact sheets from Cook County Public Health, designed for multilingual use. Each sheet features a QR code in the top right corner for digital access.

- Prenatal Vitamins (Green Header):** Titled "PRENATAL VITAMINS For Before and During Pregnancy". It includes a list of nutrients:
 - Folic Acid - The Superhero:** Prevents birth defects in baby's brain & spine. Aim for at least 400 mcg daily.
 - Iron - The Strength Builder:** Keeps your blood healthy. Helps avoid anemia, ensuring the baby gets enough oxygen.
 - Calcium - The Bone Guardian:** For strong bones & teeth for both mommy & baby. Do not forget about Vitamin D to help absorb calcium.
 - DHA - The Brain Booster:** Supports baby's brain & eye development. Find it in fish oil supplements or fortified foods.
 For more information, visit: everymothereverychild.org
- Stay Alert (Red Header):** Titled "STAY ALERT Know the Signs to Get Help During Pregnancy". It states: "Pregnancy-related deaths are a growing concern, especially for Black women, who are three times more likely to die from complications during pregnancy than White women." It lists warning signs:
 - Persistent Headache:** A headache that gets worse over time or does not go away with usual treatment.
 - Dizziness or Fainting:** Ongoing or intermittent dizziness and lightheadedness, or any loss of consciousness.
 - Vision Changes:** Seeing flashes of light, bright spots, blind spots, or experiencing temporary blindness.
 - High Fever:** A temperature of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher.
 - Extreme Swelling:** Unusual swelling of the hands or face, making it hard to bend fingers or open eyes fully.
 - Thoughts of Harm:** Any thoughts about harming yourself or your baby.
 - Trouble Breathing:** Sudden or gradual difficulty breathing, tightness in the throat or chest.
 - Chest Pain or Fast Heartbeat:** Chest pain or changes in heartbeat, including a fast or irregular heart rate.
 - Severe Nausea and Vomiting:** Nausea or vomiting that is severe and prevents you from eating or drinking.
 For more information, visit: everymothereverychild.org
- Breastfeeding Tips (Pink Header):** Titled "BREASTFEEDING TIPS Patience, Practice & Support". It includes a QR code and a photo of a baby being breastfed.
- Prenatal Doctor Visit Checklist (Blue Header):** Titled "PRENATAL DOCTOR VISIT CHECKLIST For Before and During Pregnancy". It lists key prenatal care milestones:
 - Initiate Early Care:** Begin prenatal check-ups as soon as possible and attend all scheduled appointments.
 - Health History Evaluation:** Have your medical and previous pregnancy records reviewed by your healthcare provider.
 - Routine Examinations:** Undergo regular health checks, including weight and blood pressure monitoring.
 - Diagnostic Testing:** Participate in tests to monitor you and your baby's health during pregnancy.
 - Developmental Scans:** Get ultrasound scans to track your baby's growth and developmental progress.
 - Heartbeat Checks:** Listen to your baby's heartbeat, typically starts around 10 weeks (about 2 and a half months) of pregnancy.
 - Diet and Lifestyle Advice:** Receive guidance on nutrition, exercise, and maintaining healthy habits.
 - Vitamins and Medications:** Discuss prenatal vitamins and any necessary medications with your provider.
 - Identifying Risks:** Be aware of any potential risks associated with your pregnancy as assessed by your healthcare provider.
 - Educational Support:** Learn about pregnancy, childbirth, and postnatal care from your healthcare provider.
 For more information, visit: everymothereverychild.org





Nursing Mobilization During Disease Outbreaks

- The Incident Command System (ICS) is activated under the direction of the COO
- Nursing relies upon activation of this system to guide coordination and control of identified incidences. (most recently Measles)
- PH nurses are called upon to provide testing, take blood samples, administer OTC tests, administer needed vaccines, provide follow-up care, and patient education



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Seasonal Vaccine Clinics

TOTALS BY CLINIC	COVID	FLU
Blue Island Health Center	153	132
Robbins Health Center	106	89
Cottage Grove Health Center	179	191
Arlington Heights Health Center	244	202
North Riverside Health Center	272	215
TOTAL	954	829

October 2024 – March 2025

***Total 1,783**



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Legislative Watch/Support

With over 35 counties classified as maternity care deserts, CCDPH supports HB 2688, Nurse Practice Act-Midwives, which is a legislative proposal that empowers CNM's with Full Practice Authority (FPA) to improve and expand maternal care access.

Expansion of the Medicaid Provider Base to include Doulas, Lactation Consultants; Home Visiting Nurses

Healthy School Meals: An appropriation to implement the Healthy School Meals for All Act(PA 103-0532)which allows participating school districts to provide free lunch to all students and be reimbursed at the federal rate.

Support efforts to increase funding for Early Intervention to increase access to services. 4% receive services, although research indicates 13% are eligible.

Cannabis and mandatory DCFS referrals. Currently researching this policy.



Thank you



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